

REMARKS

Status of Application

Claims 1-8 are all the claims that have been examined in the pending application. Claims 5 and 7-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hanazaki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,739,741) in view of Himes, Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,845,592). Claims 1, 3 and 4 are allowed. Claim 6 is objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

By this Amendment, Applicants are canceling claim 5, and amending claims 6-8.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 1, 3 and 4 are allowable. Applicants further thank the Examiner for indicating that claim 6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicants hereby rewrite claim 6 in independent form. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 6 is immediately allowable. Applicant further submits that claims 7 and 8 are immediately allowable by virtue of their dependency from claim 6.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 5 and 7-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hanazaki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,739,741) in view of Himes, Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,845,592).

As previously noted, claim 5 has been canceled and claims 7 and 8 have been amended to be dependent from claim 6. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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